

**Pre Release & Reentry Services Division
Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

Thursday, November 18th 2010
Minutes

Attendance: Amy Bransford, Field Supervisor, State Probation & Parole; Hardy Bennett, HHS' Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Services; Eric Brenner, Governor's Office on Grant Management; Thomas DeGonia II, Attorney, Venable LLP; Allen Drew, State Public Defender; Shawn Flower, Principal, Choice Research Associates; Christine Tyler, Executive Director, Prison Outreach Ministry; Rev. Ralph Keuhner, Founder, Welcome Home; Melissa George, Welcome Home Coordinator; Welcome Home Mentors: Francois L. Quinson, Floyd Price, Joe Doane, Ernie Sowada, & Anthony Rene; Pastor Ellwood Gray, Peace in the Valley Baptist Church; Kate O'Sullivan, Work Force Investment Board Youth Council, Diane Scott-Jones, Ph.D., Psychologist; Loretta McClintock, PRRS Volunteer Coordinator; Richard Norman, Salvation Army/Maryland Public Television; Samantha Lyons, Director, Montgomery County Drug Court; Cara Huang, Maryland's Governor's Office (DC location); Gene Morris, HHS's Access to Behavioral Health.

PRRS Staff: Stefan LoBuglio, Division Chief; Jim Shannon, Deputy Chief of Security and Facilities; Patricia Braun, Deputy Chief of Programs and Services; Tina Michaels, Assessment and Quality Services Manager; Hillel Raskas & Joyce Reimherr, Work Release Coordinators, and Andrea Gardner, Office Service Coordinator.

1. Welcome and Introductions

All individuals present introduced themselves. This was the first meeting for Christine Tyler, Joyce Reimherr, Loretta McClintock, and Andrea Gardner in their different roles, and they were extended a warm welcome.

2. PRRS Chief's Report Highlights (see Chief's Report as separate attachment)

- PRRS was awarded a \$351k grant under the Second Chance Act to develop a computer training program, and was one of 167 of over 1,000 grant applications funded. Hillel Raskas was credited with pushing the division to apply for the grant and for developing the programmatic model in concert with Montgomery College and Workforce Solutions Group.
- PRRS has classified the newly formulated synthetic marijuana that goes by the trade name K2/Spice as an illicit substance, and program participants have been notified that they will be revoked from the program for possessing it in the facility.
- PRRS staff received extensive training in methods to provide greater and more comprehensive involvement of family members in the reentry process. The training, called Close to Home, was provided by the Vera Institute of New York City under a federal project.
- PRRS' application for the Innovations in Government award of the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University was one of 125 programs to advance to the second round of the award competition out of over 675 programs.

3. Probation and Parole

- Amy Bransford, Field Supervisor for State Parole and Probation gave an excellent overview of the scope and operations of her agency in Montgomery County. Some of the salient statistics presented included the following: 4,200 individuals under criminal supervision and 2,631 individuals under Drinking Driving Monitor Program. Of those under criminal supervision, the demographics include: 82% male, 51% White; 3% under parole; and 14.5% under high level of supervision. Agents are located in three offices in Gaithersburg, Rockville and Silver Spring.
- The Department has developed a smaller caseload for its higher risk clients called the Violence? Prevention Initiative that targets individuals who are young males with more than 13 arrests and have involvement with a firearm including being the victim of a shooting. There are approximately 60 individuals in the VPI program in the County
- Her presentation identified the five priorities of Parole and Probation as:
 1. Supervise containment model caseloads according to policy without exception;
 2. Identify the proper risk level and have a case plan for every active case;
 3. Identify and respond to substance abuse;
 4. Assist law enforcement in the service of Violations of Probation/Parole (VOP) warrants for high risk offenders by providing information
 5. Everything else!
- Her presentation also included a review of significant changes in laws that affect individuals convicted of sex offenses.

4. Review of Recidivism Analysis

- The Division Chief provided an overview of the recidivism analysis conducted by a consulting firm in cooperation with the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. At the meeting, a one-page summary was provided, and the full report is located on the DOCR website under the link for Jail Recidivism in the Pre-Release Section.
- The study computed recidivism rates for a sample of 600 individuals randomly selected from a release cohort of 2,000 in 2003/2004.
- The report showed a high rate of recidivism with the most expansive definition of recidivism and a complete criminal record review. Interestingly, the study found that the instances of recidivist behavior for serious crimes were significantly less than for all crimes (49% vs. 19% for convicted offenses for males within three years of release).
- The study revealed that the recidivism rate decreased by 27% when the standard criminal justice databases were reviewed as compared to all of them.

5. Suggestions of Topics for 2011 CAC Meetings

- Co-Chair Diane Scott-Jones solicited ideas for CAC meetings in 2011. Some of the topics mentioned included:
 1. Vocation and employment skill development including soft skills
 2. Family System Services
 3. Housing
 4. Health Care Reform
 5. Counseling and Mediation
 6. Resident success stories

7. Volunteer Welcome Home Successes
8. Stage of Change Model

6. Closing Comments from CAC members

7. Adjournment at 9:10am.

8. Tentative Schedule of CAC Meetings in Calendar Year 2011

- Thursday, February 10, 2011
- Thursday April 28, 2011
- Thursday, July 21, 2011
- Thursday, November 17, 2011